Volume 19 No. 3 July 2008

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

No quarters from RVs

WIP News Service

As the concrete dries on 'beautified' intersections, created with taxpayer money that could have and should have been spent on building affordable housing, the Olympia City Council is wasting no time in waging its continued war on the poor. The council is pushing through OMC 10.16.030 which will make it illegal to park an RV on any street in the city limits. And they are doing so, not surprisingly, at the cloaked behest of the Downtown Business Association (ODA), and without a public hearing on the issue.

Two businesses have complained about a resident RV parked on a city street in the superfund polluted area of downtown where the region's raw sewage flows, Acme Fuel and Alpine Experience, the latter owned/operated by ODA salesman and city councilmember Joe Hyer. The complaints go back years and have from time to time been studied by the city for policy development. Meanwhile the police have paid and continue to pay frequent and discourteous attention to the area. Why has this become goal number one for the city? Do those who live in their RVs refuse to pay the parking meters? No. So what's the problem? Don't their quarters in the meters add up just like anyone else's? Without logic it's just a matter of business to the Olympia city council—'Lacey style'.

Lacey has developed a style of civil rights attacks by banning things outright and passing off responsibility by claiming regional problems should be dealt with outside their precious city. Panhandling and tent cities are recent "don'ts" while anti-gay protections and council meeting prayers are historical do's. Lacey has a habit of doing whatever business wants and minimizing public input—never mind what the facts are—which has resulted in the sprawling splendor of Lacey.

In January, the Olympia city council composition became nearly complete in business representation with three former officers of the ODA now in city decision-making roles.

> Not only do they not want the RVer's money, they don't even want to see them around here.

Their first actions have taken up the unfinished bigoted agenda of the ODA, including streamlining efforts for upper-income condos to be built downtown, defunding the Tenants Union and rededicating funds to beautifying downtown intersections, which WIP has previously reported on. They have also had their annual full-council scheduled meeting with the ODA, (the only such association with which they have such a meeting), where they formalized that group as a "Market Street" program to funnel more tax dollars to council-interested downtown businesses.

It is interesting to recall, as previously reported in WIP, that this designation now adds to the ODA's standing as a Parking & Business Improvement Area and as Olympia's premier Neighborhood Association (even though no ODA officer or Boardmember resides in the neighborhood), each with their earmarked taxpayer funding. The council is all too eager to follow the blueprint for such white-collar panhandling.

With the new composition of the Olympia's council, they are bringing actions in line with a current resemblance to the Lacey City Council. Many of the dozen or so,

Seeing in 'City Council vision': An RV strategically positions itself outside Acme Fuel to siphon money from Olympia Downtown Association members. Photo by Janet Blanding.

if not all of the RV dwellers are on a fixed income, most receiving GAU or SSI—state and federal income programs for individuals considered to be at an unfair disadvantage in fully participating in the marketplace due to disability(s). They receive around $500 per month—insufficient to obtain rental housing in this area because the low vacancy rate drives prices up. And motels cost even more. As an intermediary step to homelessness in pursuit of stable housing, people manage to buy an RV to live in, but there are also not enough vacancies in affordable RV parks to allow them in. In addition to limited incomes, many RVers have other factors that make them unwelcome to private landlords such as criminal backgrounds, kids and pets. So they park on streets, where parking is an encouraged activity at a metered price.

But that's not good enough for the city now—not only do they not want the RVer's money, they don't even want to see them around here. The city has numerous unused lots that could be used for overnight RV sheltering, but the city would rather have their lots stay empty, than let them be used by the likes of the poor. The city's logic: none. How this fits the city's plan to end homelessness: pass the buck and blame it on the region. It's Lacey style!

The ODA has a long history of relentlessly pursuing a bigoted and targeted agenda of criminalizing youth and homelessness that is really testimony to and evidence of the marketplace failures that result in abusive families, poverty, homelessness, substance abuse, unemployment, cynical politicians, and corporatized government.

The difference between Olympia and Lacey, now extinct, was a certain understanding beyond lip-service to the socio-economic cause and effect reality. But now neither council has a member who has a civil rights orientation—someone who understands that there are structural obstacles in the way of achieving an adequate standard of living like not enough jobs, housing and opportunities much less living wage jobs, decent housing, healthcare, etc. They are just about the facts of business, funneling as much public money into private hands as quickly as possible and creating more obstacles in the wake of their callous disregard for civil society.

Victory for free speech with SDS reinstated

by Olympia Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)

A 23-day student sit-in outside of the Evergreen State College (TESC) Vice President's office concluded June 13 after five days of negotiations, ending with all of the students' demands being met.

This stands as a significant victory in manifesting student power on campus. The students came to table with four demands: the reinstatement of SDS as a registered student organization (RSO) with an acknowledgement of some wrongdoing on the part of the administration; that no disciplinary procedure be brought against participating students; that a student who was fired for her participation in the sit-in receive her campus job back with full compensation for lost time; that the disciplinary policy for RSOs be rewritten by students. While the wording of these demands was debated to satisfy all parties involved, the students stayed firm on the essence of all demands. The students involved consider this a tremendous success and encourage students to utilize similar strategies in future struggles. This victory illustrates direct action as an effective means through which students can get their interests addressed and accomplish change.

The last day of negotiations took place on Thursday, June 13. They focused on the last agreed-upon demand, the rewriting of the RSO disciplinary policy by students. The policy will be rewritten by a coalition of students and student groups. Once this policy is written it will be brought to the student body in the form of a referendum, and if it passes, it becomes binding school policy. Thus, whatever policy the student body democratically decides on will become official school policy without any say from the administration. The students taking place in the sit-in considered this the success of this demand to be an important step in furthering student empowerment and self-determination.

After the events of February 14, a moratorium on concerts was imposed by TESC administration. While this moratorium was in effect, numerous concerts were allowed to take place on campus. A panel discussion of former Black Panthers organized by SDS for March 7, however, was canceled by the administration two days before it was scheduled to happen. SDS was very involved with organizing against police racism in our communities prior to February 14. SDS was the first, and thus far the only, organization to officially speak out against the police racism and violence (including the hospitalization of one student) on the night of the dead prez concert and the administration's enthusiastic cooperation with the police. Seeing this selective enforcement of policy for what it was, an attack on free speech, SDS followed through with the event. In response to this, administration suspended SDS' RSO status.

Banning SDS is representative of the current climate of political repression on campus. This along with other instances of suspension of student rights signals a deviation from Evergreen's original mission statement and a move toward becoming a more mainstream institution.

On Wednesday, May 21, SDS and their supporters began a sit-in outside of Vice President for Student Affairs Art Costantino's office. Costantino, along with Dean of Student and Academic Support Services Phyllis Lane (who initially filed the complaint against SDS), was foremost responsible for this suppression on campus.

Throughout the course of the sit-in, there was substantial community support. A petition in support of the sit-in was written and signed by alumni. Members of the faculty wrote and publicized letters of support as well. For much of the sit-in, community members constantly brought fresh meals and food to the sit-in, sometimes on an hourly basis. Many community organizations from Olympia, and throughout the Northwest, have been in support of Olympia SDS throughout this Free Speech struggle. Iraq Veterans Against the War, Industrial Workers of the World, and the Revolutionary Communist Party participated for some time in the sit-in. Many community and student organizations were present at SDS' appeals hearing and the Free Speech rally leading up to the sit-in to show their support for SDS' reinstatement, including Students Educating Students about the Middle East (SESAME), Umoja, MEChA, Center for Radical Education (CRE), Appearing Task Force (ATF), Evergreen Animal Rights Network (EARN), Women Of Color Coalition (WOCC), Committee in Solidarity with the Peoples of El Salvador (CISPES), and the Sabot Infoshoppe. Before the sit-in began, a petition signed by over 400 students demanding SDS' reinstatement was presented to the administration.

Sit-in participants began using site of the sit-in (the fouth floor of the SEM I building) for the People's University, almost nightly free educational events for the community. These included workshops on radical labor organizing and solidarity between labor, student and other social struggles given by a major labor organizer from Seattle; a People's History of New Orleans Post-Katrina; Radical Queer History; Accounts of Radical Student Organizing in India as presented by Dr. Muhammad Ayub; Community Accountability and Sexual Assault; The Making and Implementing of Lockboxes as a tactic for direct action; GI Resistance; Political Prisoner Support. There were several film screenings as well. The People's University was also the venue for many musical concerts, including Kimya Dawson, David Rovics, Heliotroupe, the Gay Science, Jesus Was a Slave Ship, and the 9/11s.

Over the summer SDS will be meeting every other Wednesday at 6:30 at Media Island. The next meeting will be Wednesday July 2nd.

Student Power!

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions
Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress*, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *submissions@olywip.org* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool
The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement
"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause
We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues
Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. *WIP* is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Colby Batts	Patty Mosqueda
Janet Blanding	Phan Nguyen
Dave Campbell	Nicholas Pace
Renee Cruickshank	hali panneton
Wally Cuddeford	Sandia Slaby
Christian DesMarets	Sylvia Smith
Teresa Jennings	Jeff Sowers
Robert Larson	Pat Tassoni
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Thanks for the cookies!

WIP Schedule

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ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

Briana Waters Sentenced as Terrorist

Briana Waters was sentenced to six years in prison and three years probation on July 19 in Tacoma. She did receive the terrorism enhancement. The judge recommended her to Dublin. Judge denied appeal bond and also the ability to self surrender.

Judge Burgess commented on the over 250 letters he received on Briana's behalf. Neil Fox, Ms. Waters' attorney, argued that the average of both Washington and Oregon cases was one and a half years per arson. Mr. Fox argued for five years with serving one and half suspending three and a half. The prosecution argued for ten years.

Briana Waters spoke eloquently on her behalf. There were a dozen supporters for Briana Waters in the court room.

Due to the large amount of mail she has been receiving, Briana has asked that people hold off from sending her mail unless they actually know her personally. All the support is very appreciated, and to find out more, please go to supportbriana.org

Support the Port of Olympia Legal Defense Fund

The Port of Olympia Legal Defense Fund is continuing to call for donations to provide legal representation to individuals being prosecuted for Peace Work by the City of Olympia. To donate you can send a check made payable to the "Port of Olympia Legal Defense Fund" and mail to POLDF at P.O. Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295. Thank you to all who have helped with this important effort! Free Courier Service to anyone who can prove that Steve Hall is an actual Vampire.

Not-so-secret cafe, three-course meal for PMR arrestees legal fund

June 28, 816 Rogers St. NW, across from the Westside Co-Op, Olympia

We're having a delicious secret cafe to fundraise for Katie and Patsy Hutchison's defense! Fancy food, nice acoustic music to eat to, beautiful setting, good cause. Any money collected beyond what we need for Katie and Patsy will go toward the defense of other people charged from the November actions.

Also, we're accepting reservations by calling (360) 918-8665, so if you know how many your group is and what time you'd like to eat, give us a call!

Olympia Rising Tide benefit show for West Coast Climate Convergence

On Saturday June 28, Olympia Rising Tide will be a benefit show for the West Coast Climate Convergence (http://www.climateconvergence.org/west/) at 6 p.m. in Olympia at the Love Shack (225 Milroy St. NW Oly)

The night will start off with discussion over what the Climate Convergence is and why it is happening along with ways to get involved with North America Rising Tide (http://www.risingtidenorthamerica.org/wordpress/category/front-page/).

Musical acts include
Johnny from The Tin Tree Factory
Brenna Sahatijan
Collective of Dirt
Food and discussion will start at 6:00pm
Music will begin around 7:00pm
Suggested donation for show is 5-10 dollars.

DNC Disruption tour stops in Oly

Speakers from Unconventional Denver are coming to Olympia June 28, 6:30 p.m., at the Free School (610 Columbia St)

There will be an update on the organizing happening in Denver to disrupt the Democratic National Convention this August.

Bring a friend for a potluck dinner and discussion on strategies, tactics, coordination and more. Learn about the events being planned for the week and how you and your affinity group can plug into the festivities.

Questions, comments, etc contact unconventionaldenver@riseup.net or (970) 623-5629. Tell your friends.

Citizens Movement to Impeach Bush/ Cheney meeting

June 30, 7 p.m., Mixx-96 meeting room at SW corner of State & Washington, downtown Oly.

The Citizens Movement to Impeach Bush/Cheney (www.CitizensImpeach) has been active since 2006, and we have accomplished a lot.

Now we need to figure out what to do next – in the immediate future, during the remaining seven months that Bush & Cheney are scheduled to remain in office, and perhaps after next January.

Should we "lay down" the organization? Should we persist? Should we organize a new campaign to indict Bush & Cheney for war crimes and other criminal offenses after they leave office in January? What other options exist? What would be useful and effective? (We are not partisan, so electioneering is not an option.)

Attend one of seven statewide Health Care Caucuses

July 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Temple Beth El, 5975 S. 12th St, Tacoma.

The closest Health Care caucus to Thurston County will take place under sponsorship of the Healthy Washington Coalition. This will be a great opportunity for us to share our input and help create a health care system for Washington that secures quality, affordable health care for everyone.

Campout at Millersyvlania State Park with POWER

Monday, July 7 at 3 pm until the next morning We're at group site 1!

Millerysvlania is only 10 miles away, so you can stay the night or just join us for an afternoon swim and dinner. POWER (Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights) can help with travel costs, if you call ahead and provide carpooling. We will be meeting at the POWER office, 701 Franklin Street, at 2 p.m. Call us if you'd like a ride, or if you are coming later and can provide a ride. What to bring: Something to grill for dinner and a dish to share, POWER will provide pancakes and coffee for breakfast. Tent, sleeping bags, pads, etc, if you are spending the night. Water toys and water safety supplies, there is a lovely lake.

Contact POWER at 360-352-9716 toll free 866-343-9716, welfarerights@riseup.net

http://www.oly-wa.us/power/, http://www.myspace.com/parentsorganizing

Art Auction for POWER at Bryce's Barber Shop

Friday, July 18, 7 p.m. 118 E. 4th Ave, Olympia. We will have an opening night party. Music, coffee, fun, art!

Pizza Party to support Port Militarization Resistance

Saturday, July 19, 6 – 9 p.m. at Fertile Ground Guesthouse, 311 9th Ave. SE, Olympia. Benefit to raise much needed Legal Defense Funds for some of Olympia's finest activists. Come eat, drink, and be hairy.

Donations from $10 / negotiable and sliding. Free Pie to anyone who can prove that Steve Hall is an actual Vampire.

'How the War on Iran has already started' forum

Wednesday, July 23, 7-9 p.m.. Traditions Cafe 300 5th Ave. SW, Olympia.

Join an Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace forum discussion on Iran including speakers Dr. Zoltan Grossman and organizers from Vancouver, B.C..

Grossman will speak to the current US–Israeli provocations on Iran. Speakers from MAWO (Mobilization Against War and Occupation) in Vancouver B.C. will speak about organizing efforts there in working with the B.C. Iranian community, one of the largest in North America, along with how the group challenges Canadian complicity and US involvement in the Middle East.

Vote on military aid to Israel approaches

(From US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, endtheoccupation.org)

We've just learned that the House and Senate committees that have jurisdiction over foreign aid will be voting soon on military aid to Israel for FY2009.

The House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs will "mark-up" the foreign aid bill on July 16 and 17, respectively, which includes the President's request for $2.55 billion in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) for Israel.

Take Action

1. Send a personal letter to each Member of Congress on these subcommittees.

2. Have your organization endorse our sign-on letter to these subcommittees.

3. Sign up for an organizing packet to challenge military aid to Israel in your community.

4. Schedule a meeting with your Members of Congress for the August recess.

5. Save the date-July 14-as a national call-in day.

OMJP seeks items for fundraising garage sale

Have stuff you want to unload from the garage but know is too good to dispose? Feeling charitable? OMJP is currently scavenging for items to sell in a fundraising garage sale and would accept anything in saleable condition...except TVs, porn and big weapons. Email MobyDick1980@aim.com if interested. Ideally we would pick it up from your house. Ideally.

Gag order, subpoena at Evergreen recieves full compliance

by Mike Coday

In the days immediately following the destruction of a police cruiser at The Evergreen State College on February 14, 2008 the Evergreen State College released student information to the Thurston County Sheriff's Office in compliance with a February 26, 2008 subpoena for student records.

TESC Associate Vice President Steven Hunter disclosed information about this subpoena and the release of student records in an email on May 30, 2008. Mr. Hunter also disclosed that the subpoena ended with the following "You are not to disclose the existence of this request for a period of 90 days from the date of this request. Any such disclosure could impede the investigation being conducted and thereby interfere with the enforcement of the law."

Assistant Attorney General for the College Colleen Warren is reported to have reviewed the subpoena and confirmed that it was lawfully issued. TESC Registrar Andrea Coker-Anderson subsequently released student photo identification including visual images, complete names, dates of birth, addresses and contact telephone numbers to the Thurston County Sheriff's Office.

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) permits disclosure, without consent, from a student's records in order to comply with a lawfully issued subpoena. Hunter states, "Our standard policy for such requests is to notify the student that a request has been made and to allow seven days for the student to determine if he or she wishes to take action to suppress the subpoena in court before the subpoenaed information is provided. Because of the non-disclosure statement in this subpoena, the College was required to supply the information requested and to remain silent regarding the request until 90 days had passed."

Records for 13 students were turned over to the Thurston County's Sheriff Office by TESC. All 13 students are reported to have been notified of the subpoena and disclosure shortly after the 90 day period had passed.

Several groups are currently reviewing the gag order subpoena and the release of student information in compliance with the subpoena. Watch for a follow-up story on this in next month's issue of Works in Progress.

Mike Coday is a Vietnam War conscientious objector, long-time activist for peace, justice and civil rights issues.

> "Because of the non-disclosure statement in this subpoena, the College was required to supply the information requested and to remain silent regarding the request until 90 days had passed."

SIDEBAR: After Hunter's memo regarding the release of student information to law enforcement was widely circulated on a local listserv, Washington State Human Rights Commission Executive Director Marc Brenman weighed in on the subject, saying he felt a gag order provision for subpoenas was a very controversial aspect of the Patriot Act. He went on to remark that "It is interesting that TESC, acting in loco parentis, did not try to quash the subpoena on behalf of its students. Who then protects the legal rights of students? While I do not support illegality, I can certainly understand how some students would become frustrated at a seeming abrogation of their rights to due process." [Email to Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace listserv, 6/2/08]

Olympia plans for sea level rise

by Mike Coday

Olympia City Manager Steve Hall and Public Works Director Mike Mucha were interviewed by Christopher Swope for an article titled "A Rising Tide" published in the US GSA magazine Governing.com in December 2007.

In the interview, Steve Hall said the Olympia community is "pretty engaged around the whole climate change issue" and that Olympia meets Kyoto protocol standards.

The interview focuses on the impact of rising sea level in Olympia. The City's planning is set around sea level rises of one foot, two feet and three feet. Public Works Director Mike Mucha notes that planning for sea level rise in Puget Sound is not simply looking at global sea level rise, the planning has to take into account tides that can cause regular 20 foot sea level fluctuations. Mucha also notes that the rising sea level is magnified in Olympia because of Olympia's position at the Southern end of Puget Sound and notes that the problem of rising sea level is not going to be felt as a gently lapping body of water that creeps slowly higher, it's going to be increased flooding that occurs during specific events when high winds, heavy rains and high tides coincide and that when these three coincide we will experience increased flooding.

Mucha is an engineer and notes that sea level rise is not simply the result of glacial and icecap melt, it is also an effect of thermal expansion of the oceans as sea water temperature rises. Mucha says the West Coast also faces an increased challenge of changing wind patterns with prevailing winds pushing more water against our coast. Mucha also notes that the South Sound will be sinking about a tenth of a foot in the next 50 to 100 years and says "So we have land going down, we have the water getting bigger, we have snow melt, and we have winds pushing the water around the globe in different ways. So it's a very complicated thing. And so when people ask how much are seas going to rise and I say three feet, it's based on a lot of assumptions and a lot of dynamics. Does anyone know? No. These are best guesses at this point."

As sea levels rise, much of Olympia will find itself submerged.

Steve Hall states in the interview, "It's interesting, because when we talk about sea-level rise, we get two reactions from the policy level. One is that we can't understand it—we can't know exactly how much it's going to rise, so we can't react to it. It's just too overwhelming, there's just too many factors of wind and subsidence of land and global warming, and maybe Greenland will melt and what do we do? So we do nothing."

Hall says, so what do we do? We take a reasonable approach and pick some number and start planning. "We said, let's talk about two to three feet of sea-level rise over the next 50 to 100 years. What does that mean for our community? What does it mean for our utility infrastructure downtown? What does it mean for our roadway systems? And what does it mean for investment in our public and private facilities?"

Some current questions that arise:

How does development and building fit in the planning for a sea level rise of one, two, or three feet?

Should developers include sea wall planning and flooding mitigation in projects currently on the drawing table or will we simply shift the long-term cost of protecting private property developed in a flood zone to the taxpayers?

Mike Coday is a Vietnam War conscientious objector, long-time activist for peace, justice and civil rights issues.

Four more peace activists targeted for prosecution at port protests

by Patty Imani

Seven peace activists who participated in the November 2007 round of actions with Port Militarization Resistance (PMR) in Olympia are currently being targeted for prosecution by the City of Olympia Prosecutors Office. All seven, though victims of police misconduct, are being charged with Obstruction of an Officer.

Gabrielle Sloane, Amory Ballantine, Davi Rios and Joji Kohjima were arraigned on June 25 at Olympia Municipal Court. A hearing to join the cases for trial will be held on July 23 at 3 pm. The four were selected from a larger group of nine who were arrested Saturday, November 10 while engaging in nonviolent resistance near Union and Plum streets in Olympia. Actions supported a PMR call for containment of combat equipment that was used in the illegal occupation of Iraq for the purpose of war crimes. Olympia police shot pepper-spray bullets at close range at protesters in the road who had linked their arms in hard-block fashion. Police removed the protester's protective wear for eyes and lungs, which further subjected them to pain experienced from the Police's illegal use of chemical weapons against the peace protesters.

In May three others were targeted for prosecution. Shyam Khanna, and twin sisters Patsy and Katie Hutchison were arraigned on June 13. Initial trial date for Patsy Hutchison is scheduled for August 4, 8:30 am; trial date for Shyam Khanna is set for October 29 at 8:30 am; and Katie Hutchison's trial is set for November 5 at 8:30 am. All trials will be held at Olympia Municipal Court. Shyam Khanna was arrested randomly from a group of 100 protesters during the first night of actions on November 7th through November 8th. Patsy and Katie Hutchison were arrested on Saturday, November 10th. While observing activities at 4th and Plum, Patsy became victim of the Olympia Police Department's illegal use of chemical weapons.

Noah Sochet of OlyPMR explained that Patsy Hutchison "couldn't even see when she was arrested." Patsy's eyes were saturated with pepper spray; she was handcuffed, placed in a police van for over 25 minutes, and then ignored by police. Patsy was in extreme pain, her cries for help—though specifically ignored by Police—were heard by many, including her twin sister Katie who tried to negotiate with police to get emergency medical attention for her sister. The police responded by arresting Katie.

While 66 arrests were made during 13 days of Civil Resistance, the seven individuals who have been targeted for prosecution—are all women or people of color.

Speaking of her impressions with the Port of Olympia protests, Gold Star mother and peace activist Cindy Sheehan said in a June 9 *Olympian* interview, "It's a great action, what they're doing. It's very courageous... to try and make the world a better place."

PMR is continuing its effort to secure needed legal defense funds to provide legal defense for the four new activists facing prosecution. Your help secured lawyers for Katie, Patsy and Shyam! Let's ensure Amory, Davi, Gabriella and Joji have the same support. Any amount is helpful. Please make donations payable to "Port of Olympia Legal Defense Fund" and mail to:

Port of Olympia Legal Defense Fund
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507-0295

PMR asserts, despite the court's attempts in criminalizing the peace and justice community, we understand by engaging in nonviolent direct civil resistance – we are not criminals – rather we are upholders of the law in resisting illegal occupations. We understand the true criminals are those who resist us – the riot police and prosecutors, as well as those local, regional and national bodies that appropriate the people's resources to fund these crimes against humanity. The resistance continues.

History of Olympia PMR

PMR was formed in May of 2006 as a coalition of anti-war activists to resist movement of equipment from the 3rd/2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) as it deployed in May, 2006 through the Port of Olympia. In November, 2007 combat equipment from the 3rd/2nd SBCT met resistance again as it came back through our Port toward Fort Lewis to undergo repairs and return to Iraq for more death, more destruction. In May 2006 and in November, 2007, peace activists chose to resist the war machine by standing in front of the machines of war.

At least 48 U.S. soldiers serving with the 3rd/2nd Stryker Combat Brigade lost their lives during deployment. Approximately 1.3 million Iraqi's have been killed in the US Occupation, it is estimated that up to 90% of those killed are civilians, millions more have become displaced as refugees. As of June 23 4,104, mostly very young, US Enlisted have died in Occupied Iraq, 532 U.S. Enlisted have died in Occupied Afghanistan—causalities of lies made by the U.S. administration in pursuit to control world resources, lands and peoples.

Both Iraqi and Afghani occupations defy the Constitution and International Treaties. Six years into this bloody slaughter, George W. Bush, liar-in-chief, has become the focus of Impeachment efforts—Articles of Impeachment were presented to Congress on June 9 against George W. Bush for High Crimes he has committed in calling for this illegal occupation and the slaughter of millions.

Once again, PMR asserts, despite the court's attempts in criminalizing the peace and justice community, we understand by engaging in non-violent direct civil resistance – we are not criminals – rather we are upholders of the law in resisting illegal occupations. We understand the true criminals are those who resist us – the riot police and prosecutors, as well as those local, regional and national bodies that appropriate the people's resources to fund these crimes against humanity. The resistance continues.

Patty Imani is a long-time organizer currently involved with OlyPMR, Port of Olympia Legal Defense Fund. For more info, check out olypmr.org

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Isthmus be the place

City council swoons over naive melody of waterfront 'developers'

by Janet Blanding

The controversy over development on the isthmus is heating up, with battle lines being drawn and opponents facing off at public forums, in the Letters to the Editor section of the Olympian, on the internet, and with signs, stickers and pamphlets distributed around town.

In one corner is the developer, Triway Enterprises, along with his allies the current City Council, the Olympian, and the "grass roots citizens group," Oly2012. In the other corner is Friends of the Waterfront, led by former Olympia Mayor Bob Jacobs, the Washington State Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee, the Thurston County League of Women Voters, a group of Olympia Planning Commission Alums, people who are concerned about the feasibility of constructing massive buildings in an ecologically fragile area, as well as a truly grass-roots downtown group of mostly younger residents and downtown hipsters, using the email "keepolyreal" while trying to reach consensus on an official name.

Triway rallies support

Tri Vo, principal of Triway Enterprises, has been busily courting supporters with invitation-only get-togethers, wining and dining select members of the public, then asking them to write to the City Council, *The Olympian*, and to show up and speak in support of the project at the Planning Commission Hearing. Oly2012, that mysterious "grass roots" organization which does not hold public meetings, after initially saying it took no position on the re-zone, suddenly became champions of the project.

The group proposed that the City should pay to raze the unsightly Capitol Center Building (aka "the mistake by the lake") and raise the height limits for only those parcels of land owned by Tri Vo. Oly2012 claims that this would benefit the entire community of Olympia, while skeptics wonder why the taxpayers of Olympia should not only subsidize tax breaks for the wealthy prospective owners of the expensive condos, but pay to beautify the immediate neighborhood as well. Oly2012 has been flooding the email boxes of its "members," with urgent "calls to action," exhorting them to (déjà vu!) write to the City Council, *The Olympian*, and to show up and speak in support of the project at the Planning Commission Hearing.

The Olympian: Triway's publicist

In general, *The Olympian* has acted like a paid public relations representative for Triway, spinning the project favorably as a tool to end the "blight" currently afflicting downtown Olympia. In a July 15 editorial, the Planning Commission was virtually ordered to vote to increase height restrictions on the isthmus to make way for Triway's proposed project.

The editorial declares that if the community passes up this opportunity to underwrite high-end housing, "no one will invest in downtown…and the blight will continue."

In describing the urban woes which have befallen downtown Olympia, no consideration is given to the fact that downtown merchants, like everyone else, are affected by a worldwide economic recession; blame for recent business closures and the current financial woes of downtown business people is placed on the "naysayers" who resist allowing multistory buildings on the isthmus. It's not the price of gasoline causing these hard times, folks – it's people who don't want to change the zoning. Another fact conveniently overlooked when discussing these urban woes besetting Olympia, is that despite all the Olympian's moaning and groaning, several insurance companies consider Olympia to be one of the safest communities in the nation.

In a departure from its usual pro-development cheerleading, *The Olympian* did see fit to print an editorial written by seven former Planning Commission members from the 1980's and 1990's. This editorial recommended preserving "our wonderful scenic views," by encouraging housing development elsewhere in the downtown area, 90% of which is currently zoned for buildings of the size of Triway's proposed "Larida Passage." Citing the vision of Capital Campus architects Wilder and White, the former commissioners encouraged the community to explore the option of removing the unsightly Capitol Center Building and "converting the isthmus to an open park – a continuation of the north Capital Campus Heritage Park."

"Envision Downtown Olympia"

On June 19, South Puget Environmental Education Clearinghouse (SPEECH) hosted a public forum called "Envision Downtown Olympia," which included a panel discussion, along with public comment, mostly focusing on the proposed re-zone. Rick Hoey, Director of Water Resources for the City of Olympia Public Works, without taking a position on the re-zone, described what is anticipated in downtown Olympia as the sea levels rise and flooding becomes more of a problem [see Water Level story, page 3] He described downtown Olympia as being very vulnerable to flooding, as it is low-lying, consists of mostly fill north of 4th Avenue, and may already be subsiding.

Even today, Hoey emphasized, downtown flooding is "managed closely," which is to say, not very well.

Long-term planning of development of downtown Olympia must take into account the area's increasing vulnerability to the effects of sea level rise. Possible impacts described by Hoey included difficulty in discharging storm waters, resulting in marine water traveling up stormpipes and discharging in the streets, followed by Budd Inlet topping its banks downtown. He commented that if the sea levels rise a few feet, as predicted, the new shoreline of Olympia will look a lot like its historic shoreline (before the landscape was altered by landfill). He also emphasized that it is essential to answer the question of whether or not areas of downtown are actually sinking; his department is currently working to obtain data on subsidence downtown.

Also on the panel was Barbara Gooding, former director of the Washington State Department of Community Development and also a former planning commissioner for the City of Olympia, who favors preserving the isthmus as a park while encouraging the development of housing elsewhere downtown. Next to speak was downtown landlord Steve Cooper, who chimed in with the voodoo economics message that is popular with proponents of Triway's project. He asserted that this project isn't just enriching for the developer and the rich condo owners who will enjoy tax breaks at the expense of the middle class taxpayers of Olympia – it will benefit everyone, as the money trickles down from the high rises to the people begging for spare change on the sidewalks where they may or may not be allowed to stand in the future.

Legacies

Former Olympia Mayor Bob Jacobs, a vocal critic of housing development on the isthmus, emphasized that this was a question of "location, location, location." He said that the scenic waterfront views in the isthmus area should benefit the "general public, not private interests." He recommends rejecting the proposed rezone until the City has completed a comprehensive waterfront plan, instead of rezoning the waterfront via a piecemeal process. Jacobs related that a Triway employee had said that "Mr. Vo will consider this his legacy project," prompting a discussion of legacies that former Olympians had left. Jacobs mentioned efforts to save Sylvester Park and Watershed Park from development, successful efforts which have benefitted many Olympians throughout the years. He mentioned the creation of the Percival Landing Boardwalk, and the improvements to Heritage Park, which he had been involved with during his term as mayor. He also mentioned the less congenial legacy of the Capitol Center Building, ("the mistake by the lake") a legacy which has given rise to 40 years of remarks along the lines of "what were they thinking?" Jacobs urged the audience to consider how future generations will judge us, and to resist allowing massive buildings that will destroy the sense of openness, light, and views that currently exists on the isthmus, qualities which enhance the many public events which take place on the Boardwalk and in Heritage Park.

Bonnie Jacobs presents the waterfront view she'd prefer to see at a public forum. Photo by Janet Blanding

Exclusion and retaliation

Finally, Daniel Furrer, President of the Olympia Downtown Association (ODA) spoke, emphasizing that the ODA takes no position on the re-zone. (As a nonprofit organization, it is forbidden from overt lobbying.)

However, Furrer did make known his feelings that he and other downtown merchants were suffering from feelings of exclusion and fear of retaliation. He stated that he and other downtown business people feel that they are not "welcomed into the discussion" regarding development of the isthmus, although the huge proportion of the population that wasn't invited to Triway's Open House might feel the same way. He referenced a flyer that had been distributed downtown which listed "Pro-Gentrification Downtown Businesses." (The business he works for, Archibald Sisters, was not included on the list.)

> People questioned why it was necessary to change the zoning when so much land downtown was available and currently zoned for larger buildings, many in locations which offered attractive views.

Furrer insinuated that some pro-development downtown business people hesitate to voice their support for the isthmus re-zone because they "don't want rocks thrown through their windows." This statement elicited chuckles from several members of the audience, who found it amusing that business owners should complain of feeling excluded and fearing retaliation, when a number of city ordinances covertly supported by the ODA have been aimed at creating exactly those feelings in the less affluent people who congregate in the downtown area.

Finally, members of the public had an opportunity for comment. Comments were overwhelmingly in opposition to the rezone. Even those who spoke in favor of housing development downtown questioned whether the isthmus was a good location. Others questioned whether it was responsible to promote growth in an area that will likely flood, requiring the taxpayers of Olympia to bail out the condo owners. Over and over again, people questioned why it was necessary to change the zoning of the isthmus to enable this project to go forward when so much land downtown was available and currently zoned for larger buildings, many in locations which offered attractive views.

"We cannot do it with three stories"

On June 24, the Planning Commission held its public hearing on the proposed amendment to change height restrictions on the isthmus. Although the clear majority that showed up for the hearing opposed the rezone, the event was structured in such a way that advocates of the amendment actually had more time to address the public and the Commission. It was announced that the doors at the Olympia Center would open at 5:30 pm and the hearing would begin at 6:30, but people who arrived as early as 5:35 and signed up to speak in opposition to the amendment did not have a chance to comment publicly. Most people who arrived after 5:45 were not allowed into the meeting room, although some people who waited were able to enter later. As the hearing began, with a 15 minute presentation by Triway, including a slide show touting the benefits of the project, approximately 70 people waited outside the doors, guarded carefully by a fire marshal and city officials, unable to gain admittance.

Judging from the Friends of the Waterfront stickers and pins they were wearing, the clear majority of the people stuck outside were opponents of the amendment. Most of the people inside were also opposed to the rezone, but public comments, limited to three minutes, were taken alternately.

Advocates of the rezone invoked the environmental advantages of the Larida Passage project over and over again, virtually implying that obstructing the rezone was tantamount to refusing to save the planet from global warming. No mention was made of Triway's poor record regarding "low impact" building or the ongoing soil erosion problems at the Cooper Crest subdivision, which may have to be mitigated at public expense.

A spokesperson for New Homes Trends, a market research firm, described how Larida Passage would benefit Olympia, which she claims currently lacks workforce housing downtown. Perhaps some of the capacity crowd standing in the back of the room, as well as the opponents of the project watching from the overflow room, wondered about her observational acumen when she declared that "The resounding answer to the question of whether [the project] will enhance the downtown area is yes!" Perhaps she used the same head-in-the-sand research methods when she determined that Olympia was ripe for the sale of 141 condos at an average cost of $1 million.

Tri Vo himself addressed the meeting participants, saying that Larida Passage would "make our community a better place." He cited the necessity of passing the height amendment, saying "We cannot do it with three stories," a reference to the current height limit of 35 feet.

▸ **ISTHMUS** continued on Page 8

EVERGREEN

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

June 16, 2008

Dear Mayor Mah and Olympia City Council Members,

We, Members of the Faculty, are writing to ask that you establish an independent citizen taskforce to investigate the actions of members of the Olympia city police during the event now known as the Valentine's Day incident on our campus. In our review of the videos and written testimonies available to us and in our discussions with students, it appears that our Evergreen police officer acted appropriately to call for Thurston County Sheriff backup. The Sheriff Officers arrived, gave her good advice and the situation appeared under control.

Subsequently and for no reason that we can discern it appears that members of the Olympia police force, without warning, assaulted our students and concert-goers while needlessly and randomly dispensing pepper spray. The actions by these particular members of the Olympia police force disrupted a resolution that was in the process of being achieved in a non-violent manner and created a confrontation leading to personal injuries and property damage.

As you may know, Evergreen itself has conducted its own internal review of the actions of our Police Services during this incident. This report is available for your review. However, this report does not evaluate the actions of the members of the Olympia police who were involved in this incident. We believe the Mayor and City Council has the responsibility for such a review. We are prepared to work closely with your citizen taskforce and look forward to their appointment and report.

Sincerely,

Dan Leahy

Dan Leahy, spokesperson for this letter only.
867-6478 danleahy43@yahoo.com

Jeff Antonelis-Lapp	Susan Aurand	Stephen L. Beck	Peter Bohmer
Krishna Chowdary	Sally Cloninger	Kathleen Eamon	Anne Fischel
Beatriz Flores Gtz.	Russell Fox	Judith Gabriele	Larry Geri
Jose Gomez	Zoltan Grossman	Jeanne Hahn	Ruth C. Hayes
C.C. Herbison	Sara W. Huntington	Gail Johnson	Ernestine Kimbro
Stephanie Kozick	Cheri Lucas Jennings	Paul McMillin	Laurie M. Meeker
Greg A. Mullins	David Muehleisen	Ralph Murphy	Alice Nelson
Lin Nelson	Steve Niva	Charles Pailthorp	Sarah Pedersen
John H. Perkins	Paul Przybylowicz	Bill Ransom	Rita Pougiales
Thomas Rainey	Andrew Reece	Liza Rognas	Sarah Ryan
Therese Saliba	Arleen Sandifer	Terry A. Setter	Gilda Sheppard
Ken Tabbutt	Michael Vavrus	Ted Whitesell	Sarah Williams
Elizabeth Williamson	David M. Wolach	Thomas Womeldorff	Tony Zaragoza
Julia Zay	E.J. Zita		

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The refugee hypocrisy of western countries

By Marco Rosaire Rossi

The creation of Israel in the Middle East was not only one of the greatest destabilizing events in the region's modern history, but was also one of the greatest examples of Western refugee hypocrisy.

While the anti-Semitic fervor was growing in the early half of the 20th century, the majority of European countries were unwilling to open up their doors to Jewish refugees looking to escape persecution. In effect, Palestine – under British mandate at the time – became the Jews' only safe haven.

Between 1920 and 1929, 100,000 Jews entered Palestine. The next decade, 1930 to 1939, that number more than doubled to 232,000.

After the war compelled migration of Jews to Palestine, this trend continued. The Soviet Union – which was notoriously anti-Semitic under Stalin – supported the creation of Israel as a way of dealing with the refugee crisis that faced Eastern Europe. In the United States, President Truman put pressure on Britain to allow for 100,000 Jewish refugees to enter the country. Meanwhile, the United States – which was the most desired place for refugee settlement in the world—was only willing to accept 20,000 refugees.

These efforts made Palestine – a country around the size of New Jersey – the largest recipient of World War II refugees—more than all other nations combined.

At the outbreak of the Arab-Israeli war in 1948 the refugee crisis continued, but this time it was desperate Arabs who were fleeing Zionist terrorism, and unlike what had happened with the Jews, there was no area of the world that the Western powers wanted to transfer these people to.

The war caused the deliberate displacement of between 700,000 and 1,000,000 Arabs, creating whole families of refugees who remain stateless to this day.

The worst part of this history is that it is repeating itself in the same region, with many of the same players—only this time it is caused by the invasion of Iraq. So far, about 2 million Iraqi refugees have been created by the war. That number is a conservative estimate, and it only begins to tell the story. Many Iraqis have been displaced, but they are not considered refugees because they are unable to leave the country. The constant violence and tight security makes free movement of peoples near impossible.

In addition, those who do leave usually are only able to do so because they have the proper paperwork that convinces the host country to allow them to stay. Getting the paperwork –even an Iraqi passport – can cost a fortune. Most Iraqis have to go through a complex web of bribes, bureaucracy, and black markets with no certainty that they will get what they are looking for.

The cost of paperwork also doesn't include the cost of traffickers, who charge large sums to get desperate people out of the country through dangerous and uncertain means. Plus, Iraqis still have not recovered from the diaspora created by Saddam's repression, the first gulf war, the UN sanctions, or a combination of all three. More Iraqis were seeking refugee status in industrialized nations in 1997-1998 then in 2002-2003, during the initial lead-up and invasion.

The response by the major powers in the industrialized world to Iraqi refugees has been tragically pathetic. With the exception of Sweden – which has received more requests for refugee status by Iraqis then the Netherlands, Germany, Greece, and the United Kingdom combined – the Western nations have been extremely unwilling to open their doors to refugees. For Europe, the United Kingdom and Denmark – two countries that contributed troops to the United States' Coalition of the Willing – have been particularly reluctant. In 2006, the United Kingdom reviewed 735 Iraqis migrants seeking refugee status. Of that amount 85 were granted – giving the United Kingdom only a 12% overall protection rate. Denmark was even worse. The United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees calculated its overall protection rate for Iraqis in 2006 to be at 3%.

Perhaps the worst industrialized nation to respond to the Iraqi refugee crisis has been the United States – if only because it is primarily responsible for creating the crisis. In 2006, only 535 Iraqis applied for refugee status in the United States. The small number demonstrates an awareness among Iraqis in the futility of trying to get accepted into the United States. Indeed, since 2003, the United States has only granted 5,000 Iraqis refugee status.

That is a pitifully low number when compared to the number of refugees accepted by Iraq's neighboring countries. Lebanon has accepted 40,000 refugees, Egypt has accepted 100,000 refugees.

Syria – which has a population of just fewer than 20 million, has 1.3 million Iraqi refugees.

Jordan, a country with only 5.7 million people, has 750,000 Iraqi refugees; that would be equivalent to 40 million refugees in the United States.

Sadly, both Syria and Jordan have closed their doors to Iraqi refugees because of the economic pressures the influx has caused. Meanwhile, the richest country in the world – the United States – has announced it will only accept 12,000 new Iraqi refugees for 2008.

Following the Arab–Israeli war the United Nations established the United Nations Relief and Work Agency to aid the refugees created by the crisis.

> Needless to say, bureaucracy does not move at the speed of human tragedy.

It took another two years for the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees to be written. Even after it was written, it took another three years for the treaty to enter into force. When it did, it only applied to people who became refugees prior to 1951. It took another thirteen years to write its Optional Protocol which lifted the time-period restrictions. Meanwhile, the United States—known as "a nation of immigrants" – still has not ratified the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, ratifying only the 1967 Optional Protocol.

Needless to say, bureaucracy does not move at the speed of human tragedy. At times, the misery of limbo can be worse then death itself.

As one displaced Iraqi told a New York Times reporter on February 3, 2007, "I wish they would attack us with a nuclear bomb and kill us all, so we will rest... We cannot live this way anymore. We are dying slowly every day."

Tragically, unless dramatic steps are taken to correct the hypocrisies of Western countries, the displaced Iraqi's hopelessness may continue.

Marco Rosaire Rossi is a frequent contributer to Works in Progress, a student at the University of Peace in Costa Rica and a former Olympia native.

Who is "we" if I am not "us"?

by Jami Williams

In a recent issue of *Works In Progress*, Peter Bohmer's article "Reflections on May Day 2008" emphasized his position on a message supposedly lost at the expense of graffiti artists and rock throwers. Also emphasized was the claim that these things were done self-servingly and on behalf of building a thunder-stealing Black Bloc movement. This response is addressed to not only Peter Bohmer but anyone who has ever made claim to a moral high ground or strategic ethicality to achieve a saturated condemnation of one individual's actions for the predominance of their own.

Often the words "we" and "us" are shoved into publications as if to represent unity amongst a particular group or movement. Though this may be useful to those interested in an ideological umbrella, it is automatically alienating to anyone who would not stand next to the words as truth. Luckily, people who participate in the TACTIC known as the Black Bloc don't have to worry about putting words into anyone's mouth or cry about methodology. When taking action against the oppressor or its symbols an individual will act on behalf of themselves, their affinity group and what they have collectively decided would be most effective.

This tactic known as the Black Bloc is founded on Autonomy (the condition of being politically free). From the second the organizers of the May Day march and rally decided to designate May Day in Olympia to be an act of persuasion in the name of reformist politics, they immediately alienated anyone who would prefer to celebrate May Day in a different fashion. After the fact, articles such as Bohmer's, interviews with *The Olympian* and dialogue with the City Council began exploding with anti-rock thrower propaganda in an attempt to recover the message of the organizers and their Sanctuary City proposal. From this came the most destructive work of all: Six people sat in jail while those associated with the police's victims were harassed and further alienated for not condemning the actions of those acting in solidarity and on behalf of their own love and rage.

Bohmer suggests that he understands the anger and rage of those who wrote on the walls of the Capitol and broke the windows of US Bank and Bank of America. A serious inconsistency in that claim is his statement suggesting respect for the organizers was lost when the writing went up; that respect for immigrants and "children" was lost when the banks' three windows were trashed. To this I would say what I have proposed before, autonomy before tyranny. Not to suggest that May Day 2008 in Olympia would spark one, but in no way will one revolution's architecture consist of cloned ideology. Further, a "system of accountability" may in fact serve as a safety net for organizers and their intentions. Above all, it would serve as a tool of repression on behalf of any major organizing body that happens to out-number another that does not fit under their umbrella of "revolutionary discipline."

"I urge that those few who broke windows at the two banks or wrote on the walls of the State Capitol during the rally to reflect on their actions and apologize to the organizers of the May Day event. At the same time, it is important to remember that the six people who were arrested on May Day are innocent until proven guilty and may not have been involved in the breaking of the bank windows—so let us not take the police version as fact." (Peter Bohmer, *WIP*, June 2008)

To suggest that an apology is in order is to suggest that the graffiti artists and anti-industrialists/capitalists do not stand by their convictions and that your ideals take priority over theirs. Beyond this, adopting the language of the judicial system, a major cog in the mechanisms of the oppressive machine we live in "innocent until proven guilty," is all but actualizing. The demand for an apology directly reflects an egocentric perspective regarding the distaste for autonomous action, especially if the demand is made under the assertion that the "organizers" got "hijacked."

I've heard several versions of concern for children, immigrants and workers in the banks, which to all I find validity and don't intend on challenging, so why are the organizers demanding an apology for themselves? To me, this reflects more than being butt-hurt about a change in plans, this kind of slander is compatible to the language a boss would use to reprimand their employee. This is the work of super-activists undermined on their self-proclaimed super-activist-pedestals attempting to avenge their egos via public safety propaganda. All the while, six people sat in jail, police repression is flourishing and still individuals are being spat on for not fitting in with the cool crowd. But if you believe that the woman who wears a short skirt should be raped then remain indifferent.

Don't worry, "rock throwers" haven't gone without criticism. The concern for immigrants and young people is unarguable. Communication between sects of protesters is generally a good idea for that reason.

I would argue that the march route was unclear from the beginning and that once a sect divides from another, it's fair game.

Nonetheless, because the march route was unclear and some preferred to celebrate May Day differently, there's no real excuse for not communicating the off-route-extravaganza as an official breakaway. My anger stems from the authoritarian behavior of people like Bohmer and to that my convictions stand firm. The harassment suffered while victims of police violence sat in cages, post May Day, is nauseating. I recognize the inevitability of conflict in our "movements" as well as the importance of dialogue. It is my intention to acknowledge those who refuse reformist politics and therefore became victims twice over.

Jami Williams is an artist. She is not a student nor is she anyone's employee. She is an active participant in the deconstruction of all hierarchies to achieve life free of exploitation.

An Olympia police officer attacks a participant in the May Day protests.

The Big Lock-Up

by Bill Quigley

"We can never forget that everything that Hitler did in Germany was 'legal,' and everything the Hungarian freedom fighters did was 'illegal.' It was 'illegal' to aid and comfort a Jew in Hitler's Germany, but I am sure that if I lived in Germany during that time I would have comforted my Jewish brothers even though it was illegal...we who engage in nonviolent direct action are not the creators of tension. We merely bring to the surface the hidden tension that is already alive."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

There have been over 15,000 arrests for resistance to war since 2002.

There were large numbers right after the run up to and invasion of Iraq. Recently, arrests have begun climbing again. Though arrests are a small part of anti-war organizing, their rise is an indicator of increasing resistance.

The information comes from the Nuclear Resister, a newsletter that has been reporting detailed arrest information on peace activists and other social justice campaigns since 1980. Felice and Jack Cohen-Joppa, publishers of the Nuclear Resister, document arrests by name and date based on information collected from newspapers across the country and from defense lawyers and peace activists.

Since 2002, the Nuclear Resister has documented anti-war arrests for protestors each year:

2002 – 1800 arrests; 2003 – 6072 arrests; 2004 – 2440 arrests; 2005 – 975 arrests; 2006 – 950 arrests; 2007 – 2272 arrests; 2008 – 810 as of May 1

"Arrests for resistance to war are far more widespread geographically than most people think," according to Cohen-Joppa of Nuclear Resister. "Yes, there are many arrests in DC and traditional big cities of anti-war activity – like San Francisco, NYC and Chicago, but there have also been anti-war arrests in Albany, Ann Arbor, Atlanta, Bangor, Bath, Bend, Brentwood, Burlington, Campbell, Cedar Rapids, Chapel Hill, Charlottesville, Chicopee, Colorado Springs, Denver, Des Moines, East Hampton, Erie, Eugene, Eureka, Fairbanks, Fairport, Fort Bragg, Fort Wayne, Grand Rapids, Great Dismal Swamp, Hammond, Huntsville, Joliet, Juneau, Kennebunkport, La Crosse, Los Angeles, Madison, Manchester, Memphis, Newark, Northbrook, Olympia, Omaha, Pittsburgh, Portland, Portsmouth, Providence, Richmond, Sacramento, San Diego, Santa Fe, Smithfield, Springfield, St. Louis, St. Paul, Staten Island, Superior, Syracuse, Tacoma, Toledo, Tucson, Tulsa, Vandenberg, Virginia Beach, Wausau, Wheaton and Wilmington just to name a few."

"In fact," Cohen-Joppa writes , "in 2007, anti-war arrests were reported during 250 distinct events in 105 cities in 35 states and the District of Columbia. So far in 2008, arrests have been reported at 65 events in 43 different cities in 19 states and DC."

An example of the scope of resistance can be found in the Chicago-based Voices for Creative Nonviolence. They joined with other major peace groups like CODEPINK, Veterans for Peace, and the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance in early 2007 to launch The Occupation Project, a campaign of resistance aimed at ending the Iraq War. Theirs was a campaign of sustained nonviolent civil disobedience to end funding for the US war and occupation of Iraq. The Occupation Project resulted in over 320 arrests in spring of 2007 in the offices of 39 U.S. Representatives and Senators in 25 states.

"I am energized by the dedication of so many conscientious activists across the country willing to take the risks of peace and speak truth to power," says Max Obuszewski of the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance. "We have been unsuccessful so far in stopping this awful war and occupation of Iraq, but it is not for the lack of direct action. We are taking on the greatest empire in world history, but we will continue to act."

"There are large numbers of new people being arrested," notes Cohen-Joppa, "most typically saying, 'I have tried everything else from writing to voting, but I have to do more to stop this war.' The profile of people arrested includes high school teenagers to senior citizens, mostly people under 30 and over 50."

Anti-war arrests are significantly underreported by mainstream media. For example, around the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq in March 2008, most news stories wrote that there were 150 to 200 arrests nationwide. Cohen-Joppa and Nuclear Resister report there were over double that number, well over 400, many outside the cities where regular media traditionally look.

Though arrests typically drop off in election years, as people's hopes are raised that a new President or Congress will make a difference and stop the war, this year looks like arrests are likely to continue to rise. In part, that will depend on the attitude of authorities in Denver and Minneapolis, where the political conventions are being held. In 2004, New York City authorities overreacted so much to protestors at the Republican convention that they arrested historic numbers of protestors – including hundreds who had no intention to risk arrest. If Senator McCain is elected, anti-war resistance activities are expected to rise much higher.

Why do people risk arrest in their resistance to war? Perhaps Daniel Berrigan, while on trial for resistance to the Vietnam War, said it best:

"The time is past when good people may be silent when obedience can segregate us from public risk, when the poor can die without defense.

How many indeed must die before our voices are heard? How many must be tortured, dislocated, starved, maddened? How long must the world's resources be raped in the service of legalized murder?

At what point will you say no to this war? We have chosen to say with the gift of our liberty if necessary our lives: the violence stops here.

The death stops here. The suppression of truth stops here. This war stops here."

Though war resistance activities and arrests have not stopped the war in Iraq, those struggling for peace remain committed. "None of us know what will happen if we continue to work for peace and human rights," says a handmade poster of one involved in the resistance, "But we all know what will happen if we don't."

Bill Quigley is a human rights lawyer and law professor at Loyola University New Orleans. He can be reached at Quigley77@gmail.com. The Nuclear Resister has covered the South Sound port resistance movement since its beginning; they can be contacted at nukeresister@igc.org

WIP staff branches out in baking world

Q: What is wrong with this picture? A: These already hardworking WIPsters have to hold a bake sale to raise funds! Please donate (or subscribe) to WIP so they can focus on writing and editing articles. Photo by Sandy Mayes.

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▸ **ISTHMUS** continued from page 4

"Millionaires don't ride the bus"

Local heavy hitters, both for and against the amendment, spoke early in the evening; the exact mechanism which enabled prominent citizens to advance to the head of the queue before ordinary folks was not explained. Fred King, chairman of the Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee spoke against the rezone, asking the Planning Commission to respect not only the historic plan for the isthmus area and view corridors from the Capitol Campus, but the pedestrian character of the Heritage Park area, as well. Jackie Sharar, a member of Oly2012's Steering Committee spoke in favor of rezoning Triway's parcels, saying that currently, "Ninety-five percent of the housing downtown is rental housing, and that speaks volumes."

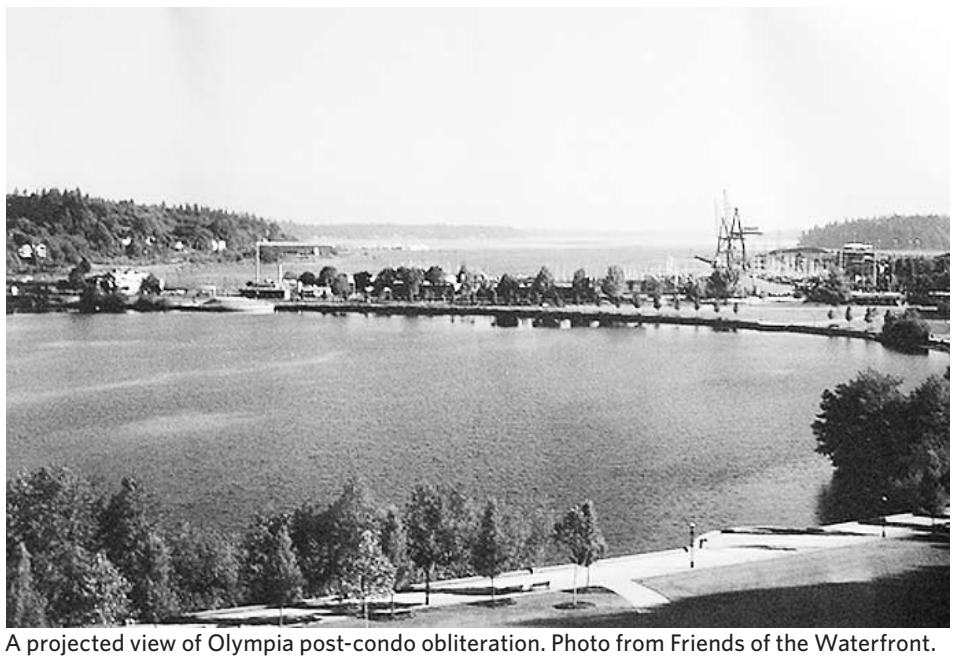
It does; we can hear her class bias, loud and clear.

Peter Stroble of Oly2012 told the crowd that even if the rezone amendment failed, traffic would be worsened and views would be degraded by the construction of a three-story office building that the present zoning allows, a promise or a threat that has been repeated frequently in recent discussions about the isthmus rezone. Thad Curtz of Friends of the Waterfront refuted the claims of proponents that the project would ease traffic problems in downtown Olympia, saying that "Research shows that millionaires do not ride the bus." He also commented that despite all the talk about the pedestrian-friendly character of high density housing, Triway's project allows for two parking spots per condo unit.

Carlene Spitler, co-owner of the Abstractions Gallery downtown, angrily denounced concerns for preserving the views as the planners of the Capitol intended, citing the four or five downtown businesses that have closed in the last year. Downtown housing, she said, is "all rental property, all low-income, all subsidized. These people cannot spend money in our shops."

Developers Russell Meixner and Bob Greenway spoke in favor of the project, but Sandy Desner of Deskoba, did not. Although Desner stated he supports development of downtown housing, he favors smaller projects, and warned that allowing this project which would so degrade views from the Capitol Campus, could damage "legislative relationships," with possible adverse consequences for the city.

It wasn't until late in the evening that younger speakers such as Tovah Rudawski, Kevin Laird and KTee Olejnik had the opportunity to express their opposition to the rezone. Rudawski, an Evergreen student who also works for Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights (POWER), urged the Commissioners to put their energy and funds toward expanding housing options for people who really need them, asking, "Within what frame of good logic does the idea of subsidized housing for wealthy folks exist?" Laird remarked that the economic deliverance proponents of the rezone promised was unlikely to occur, as "millionaires may not spend much money locally." Olejnik also debunked the rezone's proponents' many appeals to voodoo economics; the crowd responded enthusiastically, despite the late hour, as she enjoined "Let's not let Triway test the trickle-down theory on Oly!"



A projected view of Olympia post-condo obliteration. Photo from Friends of the Waterfront.

> No mention was made of Triway's poor record regarding "low impact" building or the ongoing soil erosion problems at the Cooper Crest subdivision, which may have to be mitigated at public expense.

Oppressing the wealthy

The Commission heard testimony until 10:15 pm, exhorting the dozens of people who had stuck around hoping for an opportunity to speak to instead write down and submit their comments. One of Triway's attorneys, Aaron Lang of Seattle, was given five minutes for concluding remarks. Like members of Oly2012, he again reminded the crowd that there would never be a park on the isthmus; if the rezone failed, he said, Triway would build an office building on the isthmus instead. Those of us with long memories remember hearing rezone advocates, in the very same room in March of 2008 predict that no developer would be inclined to build anything on the isthmus unless height limits were raised so projects would "pencil out." Why has the scenario suddenly changed? It seems unlikely that building at lower heights on the isthmus is more profitable now, as the national economy continues to falter. Could this new project be merely, as one observer said, "blackmail"?

After enduring numerous comments about the unfortunate predominance of rental units and low-income housing (and people) in downtown Olympia, it was amusing to hear Lang complain that he was disappointed by the "classism" expressed by opponents of the rezone. Apparently, when citizens object to wealthy developers attempting to co-opt public views for the private enjoyment of the economically elite, the rich feel oppressed.

Let's hope the Planning Commission sees it differently. After public comment is closed on June 30, the Commission will deliberate until July 21, when they will make a recommendation to the Council. Another public hearing will occur before the Council makes a decision in September. If you think building massive, view-obstructing condos for the wealthy on the ecologically and seismically fragile isthmus is a bad idea, let them know! Comments can be sent to the Planning Commission at *cpdinfo@ci.olympia.wa.us* and the City Council at *citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us*.

Janet Blanding opposes changing the zoning on the isthmus.

George Carlin, US radical 1937–2008

Editor's note: We would love to have included some actual writing excerpts from George Carlin but goofy shit like copyright rules kept us limited to an homage. So please accept these words from a fan with a recommended reading/hearing/viewing list at the end.

by Sergei Holmes

My first and only significant use of plagiarism was when I lifted George Carlin's "Kids Are Too Small", "Rules, Rules, Rules" and "Parents' Cliches and Children's Secret Answers" from his 1977 *On the Road* album.

It was for a speech presentation in fifth grade. And I had *studied* that album.

Now, I know you're probably thinking 'Geez, fifth grade? George Carlin? Isn't that a little young?'

Well, I censored the obvious parts, inserted in a custom joke about my local amusement park (so as to avoid suspicion) and received the rampant adulation of my classmates and some substitute student teacher's praise.

My father, who gratefully raised me in an uncensored environment...and fortunately had an HBO subcription (home to all of Carlin's televised full routines), was a huge Carlin fan himself.

I recall being mesmerized as a young child watching Carlin's specials. Explaining the Gulf War and how missiles are phallic and pointing out that the people running this mess are named Bush, Dick and Colin.

Carlin knew exactly *when* to cuss and that was what attracted me to him initially aside from the deviant glee any child gets from watching something they're "not supposed to."

As I entered adolescence, I discovered his 1970s material and found a brilliant vocal performer seemingly curious about everything. The exact sound our throat makes before we swallow. The hypocrisy of parental authority. What causes people to believe in God and what questions we need to be asking ourselves.

Biology, religion, linguistics, politics, Carlin was one of the best teachers I've ever had because he gave me a critical thinking foundation few children (or adults) are exposed to.

It's kind of sad that most parents will never introduce their children to Carlin's material due to his frequent use of a few of the seven "bad words" in the english language. Because of his genuine skill of creating indelible impressions on numerous life subjects we inevitably must make decisions on, I think Carlin should be considered an educator.

As Carlin grew older (therefore more "stodgy and caustic" according to the Al Sleet, fart joke loving side of his crowd), I found myself becoming less interested/bamboozled by a lot of the ideas this country propagates to subjagate its labor force.

Upon returning to my birthtown, Amarillo, TX, for a brief visit in 2005, I was fortunate to see Carlin do his "Life is Worth Losing" routine in town. Being one of the most conservative towns in the nation, his show bombed, of course. A steady stream of people left throughout. And Carlin was unfazed, beckoning the crowd to "have some fucking courage" during his more creative moments.

After 19 wasted years of youth, I felt redeemed to have my hero get on stage and force people to have their rigid belief systems challenged in an environment that had stunted mine.

It was the most meaningful standing ovation I've ever participated in.

Starter book: *When Will Jesus Eat the Pork Chops?* Starter album: *Toledo Window Box*. Starter TV routine: "Doin' It Again."

Sergei Holmes, a pseudonym, can be reached at almostbamboozled@yahoo.com. He's an Olympia resident.

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